

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Statement by Member for Collie-Wellington

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie-Wellington) [12.55 pm]: Although it has been mentioned previously, I also would like to congratulate all the Western Australian athletes who performed so well in the 2006 Commonwealth Games, particularly those from country areas. I know from personal experience the extra effort and sacrifice country athletes and their families must make to reach the elite level in their chosen sport. Hailing from Collie is Kobie McGurk, one of our women's hockey gold medallists. Over the years I have watched Kobie progress through the ranks of the local hockey competition. Her parents, Brian and Robyn, have been heavily involved in the Collie Hockey Association. I am sure Kobie appreciates her family for its tireless support and for always being there for her. I also acknowledge the fine grounding Kobie received from her local coaches, clubs and associations. Congratulations to them also for their years of dedication. It was a natural progression for Kobie to follow her two older sisters into the sport. She has always shown a fierce determination to achieve her goals and, although at times she may have been perceived as being overly determined, she certainly proved a point when, at 20 years of age, she was selected for the Hockeyroos Commonwealth Games team, and went on to win gold. Congratulations Kobie McGurk; you have done Collie proud.